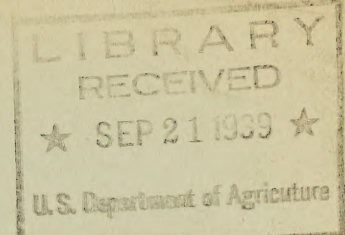


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CONFERENCE OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS
REPRESENTING EVERY STATE, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO

Washington, D. C.

May 3-13, 1939

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THEME:

We Go Forward - -

By New Paths - -

To Old Goals

Extension Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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M. H. SEP 29 1930

CONFERENCE OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS
REPRESENTING EVERY STATE, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO

C. W. Warburton, Chairman:

We are delighted to have you all here, but the official word of welcome for the Department will be said by one of you - one of the first county agents of the State of Montana, late county agent leader, now the Under Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. M. L. Wilson.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME
M. L. WILSON
UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Dr. Warburton and members of this unique conference. On the part of the Secretary's office I want to extend to you a hearty welcome for this particular conference. I say that with a great deal of feeling and with a great deal of earnestness. We regard this as a very important conference at a very important time, and one of much greater significance than many of the conferences that come along in our month-to-month and year-to-year deliberations and administrative operations.

There have been very great accomplishments in agriculture in the generation in which you and I are living. There have been great accomplishments in the field of science and in, if you would call it such, the penetration of science into the lives and work of farmers and farm families and the replacement of ideas founded upon science both on the work of the farm and upon the life of the family. There have been great accomplishments in the field of education; in the field of developing people, in adjusting their outlook, and in making them more and more a part of the great civilization in which they live, rather than people, as the expression used to be, isolated upon farms. There have been great accomplishments in perception and understanding of the economic problems underlying our national prosperity, our national welfare, and our national life, as well as our life and activities in the field. This therefore is a time in which, I think, social change, agricultural change - all these kinds of things - are more or less in flux, and out of them are going to grow increasing benefits resulting from extension activities in which you are engaged.

There comes to mind at this time the necessity for two very important things. One of these is developing, wherever it can be developed, the democratic processes, the democratic outlook on life, and making the democratic processes work. This conference as I understand it is organized on the basis of the democratic processes; that is, it is to be a discussion kind of conference. I am delighted to hear this. I congratulate you in your participation in such a conference, and I congratulate those who have taken a part in organizing and preparing the conference. I hope that each one of you will participate as a member of a democratic group, will speak

what is now on your mind and the thoughts that develop as you participate in the group; that you will speak these thoughts of yours and your ideas with frankness and directness; and that you will ask questions of the members of the various agencies of the Department of Agriculture with whom you will have opportunity to come into direct contact. What you get out of this kind of conference is really up to you, and it will vary directly with your individual participation in it. I hope, therefore, that this conference will mark another stepping stone in a demonstration of the democratic processes of discussion, and that there will grow out of it an understanding both on the part of the people of the Department whose pleasure it will be to sit in, and on your part, of the functions, the ideas, the goals, and the objectives of the Federal Department of Agriculture.

The second thing, which grows out of this last statement and which is of great importance to me from my view of the agricultural problems of today, is that each and all of you should have a rather clear unified understanding. We have been moving very fast in recent years - fast within the Department of Agriculture in the development of new services for farmers; fast within the States; fast everywhere. And that has not given us the opportunity of having this unified point of view, in which we understand what is going on and why it is going on. I think that if you participate in this conference as I know you will participate, you will get that understanding and will be able to lend very great aid in taking back to your respective States what you have received here and in stimulating this same kind of spirit and activity among the eight or ten thousand extension workers throughout the country.

Again, I want to say that we regard this as an important conference, coming at a very important time, and we want to extend to you a hearty greeting from the Department in Washington.

PURPOSE AND PLAN OF CONFERENCE
BY C. W. WARBURTON
DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION WORK

We appreciate, all of us, this message from you, Mr. Wilson, and through you from the Secretary's Office. We all feel that this conference is a very important one, and one to which we have been looking forward for a long time. At various times through the years we have talked about having in Washington a meeting of county workers. We have had two or three such sessions. We have had various groups in from individual States. A couple of years ago there was rather a large representation of county agricultural agents. We have had the meeting of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, but we have not at any time had a fully representative group such as this. Both men and women agents are represented here from practically all of the States. I have not checked the list to find how complete it is, but I know it is a very representative group.

There are several purposes in calling such a conference as this one. First, we wanted to have this opportunity to show our appreciation not only to individuals but to all county workers by giving at least a few of you, a representative from each State, an opportunity to come to Washington to see the Capital of our country. Perhaps many of you have been here before, but we hope that this will be a really special opportunity for you - to exchange experiences with workers in other States, and to meet the people who are directing the agricultural programs for the Department of Agriculture. Now this is not going to be a speech-making conference. After these brief talks which Mr. Wilson and I are making this morning, there will be practically no other speeches, and I'm sure that will be welcome news to all of you. It will be a discussion conference - a conference in which we hope that all of you will participate freely. At each session a few people will be brought in as consultants. They are not to make speeches. They are to answer your questions. We have necessarily had to do something to set up a framework of the program, so we have set up several questions - several topics - which we felt would be of interest to all of you; and with reference to each topic we have requested several people, who we thought were especially well informed, to discuss that topic with you, to sit in as consultants. As I said before, these people are not to make speeches to you. They are to answer questions, participate in the discussion with you, and be members of the group for the time that they are here. Then, of course, if you look through the program you will see other things we are planning for you.

Except for the wide-open space in the middle of the room, this looks to me like a typical extension meeting or State extension conference. As many of the men as possibly could, took seats in the back of the room; as many of the women as could, lined up on one side of the room, and in that way it certainly is typical of most of the extension conferences and meetings I have attended.

This is to be a discussion meeting. Our set-up is not just the best that could be provided for a discussion meeting because I think it is generally recognized that the very best discussion meeting is a small group sitting around a table. There is an informality about that that you can't get in any other way. Perhaps one reason is that it helps to do away with the tension; everybody gets his feet out of sight, and that you can't do under the situation here.

We think we are particularly fortunate in having for your discussion group leader Mr. A. Drummond Jones of the Department staff. I am sure many of you have met him and have seen him in operation at discussion-group meetings in your own States and in extension schools in which he has participated. I saw him in operation last week at the Rural Youth Conference, which is perhaps one of the hardest groups to get going and keep going. It brought together people from a large number of States, representing The Grange, Farmers' Union, Farm Bureau, the vocational group, and the extension group - and with them were 25 adults. And that of course is generally understood to be a hard proposition to handle in a discussion

group - youth and adults together, but from what I saw and from what I heard from others who were there, he did an excellent job. Now I am going to turn the meeting over to Mr. Jones, who will handle it from here on according to his own discretion.

Group Discussion

Chairman, C. W. Warburton

I. What kind of life should be made possible for farm families through efficient agricultural production in America?

REMARKS BY A. DRUMMOND JONES

DISCUSSION LEADER

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

I think you would be interested in knowing something of how this conference was organized; and the way in which we might "go at" the problems with which the conference might be concerned is something, I think, which also might be of interest. It has long been thought necessary to begin to direct our attention to the general question: Exactly what do farm people expect to obtain from farming, and how does this affect the rest of our Nation; and how in turn does the rest of our Nation play upon this general question? You will note, therefore, that we have deliberately attempted to avoid raising questions in any detail, frankly because it is too difficult for any person here or anywhere else to analyze such a problem so completely that the point of view, interests, and knowledge of all persons in a conference like this can be taken into consideration; in fact, some of us believe that the best light we can throw on problems of this general nature is, thinking together on the general question.

(After full and free discussion by a majority of the extension agents, Mr. Jones summarized the high points as follows.)

Now for the question!

What do farm people expect to obtain from farming?

- (1) Freedom. - Farm families as a whole want independence, want freedom from taking orders from somebody above them. They want the feeling of being their own boss.
- (2) Security.- They want security, both economic and healthful.
- (3) Type of life. - They like the soil and what goes with it. They like to deal with crops, livestock, and to consider the country as a wholesome place in which to live.

- (4) They want their children to be on an equal basis with city children in regard to recreation and education.
- (5) Many farm families are on farms because of heredity and circumstance and not because they particularly want to be there.

What factors would you say contribute to the lack of abundance in farm families?

- (1) Inefficiency.
- (2) Lack of knowledge.
- (3) Poor habits.
- (4) Present low prices for crops.
- (5) Lack of courage.

What are some of the evidences in farm-family living that you see which point to the lack of abundance?

- (1) Need of wallpaper, painting of homes, worn-out rugs.
- (2) Poor nutrition.
- (3) The case of a 4-H Club boy who had won a scholarship to go to college but could not go because of lack of funds, and boy's health would not permit him to work his way through college.

It was pointed out that many farmers have to apply to loan companies because of lack of abundance. Farmers would like to get more representatives on the marketing boards, where they might have more say about their prices and in getting fair prices. It was also pointed out that many farmers did not have sufficient income with which to buy the necessary farm equipment and machinery.

Arkansas reported that 3 years ago there were 362 cases of pellagra in the State. Through an educational program, in cooperation with their health department, the last survey made recently reported only 75 cases. The nutritional education program has been a great help to Arkansas. In Tennessee the tuberculosis toll was unusually high, simply because of the ignorance of food values. This has been reduced by educational programs on "better balanced diets."

In looking toward abundance in living, which we say the farm family wants, we pointed out that certain conditions would have to be righted. Which of these conditions will have to be righted outside the farm home with other agencies, and which can be righted on the part of the farm family itself?

The fluctuation in the price level is very confusing to the farmers and destroys their courage.

We have not talked about what is the cause of this lack of income for abundance. I do believe we have made some progress this morning in starting with the question - What do farm families and farm people expect from farming? Briefly, they are: Freedom, the life of the farm, security.

May 3 - 1:30 p. m.

Group Discussion

Chairman, J. L. Boatman, Chief
Division of Subject Matter,
Extension Service

II. What does the general public want from farming enterprise in America?

Leader - A. Drummond Jones.

I think you will find the discussions this afternoon even more challenging than those this morning.

The whole question of the relationship of the general public, whoever they are, to the farming enterprise is one, of course, which opens up an entirely new realm of thought. Quite frequently when discussing the general public and the farming enterprise, we might manipulate ourselves into the position of thinking of them as opposites, just as people do when thinking of the farmer and the city worker and the farm and industry as being opposite. But I assume now that we are thinking of this great mass of our population for whom democracy has been set up and a part of which are the farmers themselves.

However, for purposes of discussion we are thinking of those who are more in the position of being on the outside looking in at the farmer, looking at farming as one of the necessary public utilities of our public life.

Approaching it, therefore, from this point of view, this morning we talked first, as you will recall, of the farm family and what it wants from farming, and we mentioned freedom, a type of living, and security. And from the evidence we have we see that the farmer is not in the position of being able to get those things. What can farmers do by themselves, individually, or as families, to protect themselves from these situations? Where will other types of action be necessary? Cooperation among various farm groups, Extension Services - these were a few of the helps of which we were thinking.

* * * * *

This afternoon we have been talking about the general public and what it demands from farming, and the lack of abundance in the cities and on farms. We asked why it is in America we are not able to transfer the products from farming to those who need them. We talked about unemployment, freight rates, distribution costs; we almost got into the discussion as to whether or not people can settle these problems by using what we have. This afternoon we have talked about those people who need an outlet.

Dr. Ezekiel stressed these factors: That a great proportion of our population which stands in need of higher income is in the cities. Due to many practices on the part of industry, there is a shortage of the use of farm produce. He mentioned investment policies in savings instead of wages, wage policy in which wages are considered as a commodity; price policies as represented in farm machinery which tend to hold up prices. The result is that the farmer has been active in a monopolistic industry, and production for income or purchasing power becomes more difficult all the time. It is a matter of the functioning of savings when what is needed is the distribution of purchasing power instead of investment in industries.

The general public has a right to expect from the farming industry efficiency in production, conservation, good education for our children, virile type of children, beautification.

What do we need? Use of best practices? If so, what about groups who for one reason or another are unable to adopt those practices for the greatest degree of efficiency? Do we not therefore have something to expect of the general public? One outcome of this greater efficiency is a surplus of human labor. In industry in the cities today human surplus does exist. We did not try to solve that problem. Somebody raised the important point that perhaps this could be avoided by making it possible for more people to work with not so many high salaries. If we think only in terms of human needs, perhaps the problem can be solved. We have talked about education, beautification of the home, and raising the level of living in our homes. Farmers do have a right to expect from the general public cooperation in maintaining the type of living that we claim ought to and probably does exist for most farm people.

May 4 - 9:30 a. m.

Group discussion

Chairman, S. P. Lyle, In Charge
Agricultural and Home Economics Section
Extension Service

III. What benefits do farmers and the public expect from research and educational institutions they have set up in the common interest of agriculture?

Leader - A. Drummond Jones.

I talked with members of this group this morning to discover whether we can make this discussion more profitable as the conference goes on. Points offered were: The need for coming down out of the sphere of academics as quickly as we can to some of the practical problems that face us now in our field of operations. That need was felt in getting up the program. The discussion of what the public expects from farming - what does the public expect - rather than what does the public have a right to expect. Today we are going to discuss some of the practical problems -- to deal with these problems under discussion yesterday. Tomorrow we shall be talking about Extension as such: What farmers want; what the public expects; what the public and farmers have set up. Tomorrow, the relationships of Extension to these problems and these programs. We shall move from the general to the particular.

Yesterday we discussed what the farm family expects from agriculture. Does the farmer possess the means of attaining this, Why doesn't he? Does the general public possess the means for abundance? Out of yesterday's discussion came an understanding that efficiency implies the correction of a number of problems which seem to bear on this larger issue of abundant living. Efficiency taken alone carries little meaning. Hence our attention was centered on a broad, serious national problem which we face today in agriculture.

It may be of service to recall that in our history the public has seen fit to set up certain institutions for the support of which we voluntarily tax ourselves. Institutions are not sacred in a democracy. Public support of institutions, I suppose, is earned by the value that those institutions render to the public which supports them, and if the time should come when the public for one reason or another comes to the belief that institutions no longer serve in solving the problems faced, we have every right to wonder what would be the fate of these institutions. Second, this morning is the discussion of the research work of our agricultural colleges, the teaching of agricultural colleges and schools in our system of agriculture
* * *

We are undoubtedly moving through a period of transformation in our Nation, one in which the public itself is centering attention on the very institutions it has created. Perhaps it would be profitable this morning

to try to evaluate them first in terms of their history, and secondly in this term of their ability to meet the new problems that we face. Now, there are many ways in which this problem should be approached. This morning I tried to think through the kind of questions that should be raised. There is nothing sacred about the questions raised by a chairman. For purposes of convenience, I wonder if you would be willing to start talking about our colleges in agriculture with respect to their teaching work, moving on from there to considering the research job that they have been trying to do, and gradually toward the end of the morning to evaluate public education as a public institution--our public schools along with our higher institutions. I am wondering if you would be willing to begin the discussion by offering your opinion on a question like this, What common problems of the public and of agriculture - what kind of problems - have the teaching agencies of our agricultural colleges been trying to meet in the past?

* * * * *

You recognize, as I do, that we have barely scratched the surface of the problems that the agricultural colleges have to face. The analysis of the quality probably points as much to these new functions as any other topics we should have analyzed, because we have touched on the way of life and of economics we face at present. We left behind the public picture as such and began to think about ourselves. We talked about those who trained us and those for whom we work. When we questioned what have actually been the functions of the agricultural colleges and the research institutions, we considered that functions of the agricultural college originally were thought of as agencies that made new discoveries of information bearing on production and marketing, the improvement of homes and general standard of living in agriculture. We later saw that there came to be a demand for trained leaders. This leadership being necessary to the processing of education itself, that is as I understand it. The land-grant colleges did not concentrate definitely on training leaders whereby they may have power. It becomes necessary for us to discover ways in which the people learn, and hence this requires a type of leadership which knows how to work with people.

We spent a short while talking about the functions of the public school traditionally in this direction. Some of us felt that the school did not give sufficient time to understanding production of agriculture. Others of us felt that the purpose of the public school is increasingly moving in that direction to serve people and to create a broad understanding among various groups of people.

Do the schools in rural regions consider a standard of the national problems even to the extent that the farm boy and girl and their way of life is affected? What problems now face the agricultural colleges and their related institutions in view of the transition?

I hope that Committee No. 3 at this point will realize that there are many other problems coming out of yesterday's discussion that face the college today.

Two points of view that had to do with the fact that the leader should be a person who has been successful - a person who can show that he has accomplished what he expects to help others accomplish. He is the one who leads, and the others follow. That is the impression I get. The other raised the point that the leader is one who is of the group, and who stimulates the group to do for the community as a whole rather than merely for the group alone. He teaches people to realize their desires in ways they never knew, rather than teaching them there are things they ought to do.

This last has to do with the pace at which we go. We realize that our pace is fast today. This conference is a perfect example of it. In our way of life today, events happen so fast that it is difficult to keep up with them. Perhaps the answer might be the developing of more and more leaders. I think the challenge is to the college and institutions in democracy. Is the school now in position to train that very type of leadership which becomes an instrumentation of democracy, habits and practices on the part of our people? Is it able to employ these practices which build in people not a subservience to other people?

May 4 - 1:30 p. m.

Group discussion

Chairman, Reuben Brigham

Assistant Director of Extension Work

IV. What do farmers and the public hope to accomplish through legislative action programs designed to serve agriculture?

Leader - A. Drummond Jones.

What do farmers and the public hope to accomplish through legislative action programs designed to serve agriculture? Mr. Brigham has given, of course, a good discussion on some of the human factors involved. I do know we have, here, representatives of various action programs associated with the Department and, I am sure, you will voice with me the feeling that you would like to know them better, hear from them, and get their impressions of some of the problems in which we will deal. However, in order to initiate a discussion, I wonder if it would be satisfactory for me to raise this question and ask some preliminary opinion on the part of the group this afternoon? In looking back over the developments of our agricultural institutions this morning, we found various factors at work in our system which caused these institutions to come into being. Similarly, what factors in our national picture are responsible for the initiation of what we are today calling a national action program in agriculture? What factors are responsible for the beginning of an agricultural program based on legislation?

The time comes to take advantage of modern advancement. When this movement toward legislative action started, what are some of the problems

that were designed by farm people for these programs to meet? Have we overlooked anything important? In thinking about the Triple A program, which of these problems do you feel it is particularly designed to meet for farm people?

REMARKS BY
R. M. EVANS, ADMINISTRATOR
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

I don't believe you have overlooked many of the things in the minds of the farmers at the time they demanded their share of income. We have had three acts of farm legislation * * * since 1933. We had the original production control - production of commodities as corn, cotton, hogs; January 1936, * * * soil conservation. During that period of time, we had just got rid of some surpluses through the surplus control program. Late in February 1938 we had a new act which once more put into operation rather rigid control features, and I think in your discussion you probably should take into account reduction of the commodities.

Going to the other extreme - the strictly soil-conservation approach, we come back to a more restrictive program, but not quite as restrictive as the first one. As long as I am on my feet, if you don't mind, I want to take the opportunity to thank all of you people for the splendid assistance you have given at all times in carrying forward this educational work. Certainly, it has been one of the important factors in contributing to the success of our program this year. You never get the benefit of an educational program the next day or even the next year. Without doubt much is due to the work that you people have done so well in so many places. We hope you will continue to explore these problems. Don't be partial to the particular A.A.A. approach as I would be, because I am partial and prejudiced. Discuss this subject of export, the necessity for income, the necessity for farmers being on the same plane as other classes of society. I think you will eventually build up in the minds of farmers why they have to have a program. Try to find a way in which to begin to get from the farmers practical suggestions for streamlining the program. Much more than any one thing, when you meet farmers, is the necessity for soil conservation in a mature country where we no longer have an open frontier to move to when this land is worn out.

Leader.

Don't think this discussion responsible to any particular program. Try to develop the test that there has been a growth in our approach to common problems on the part of the farm population and the general public. Make the whole question, whether or not this rising demand on the part of farmers for expression in our present legislative programs is actually the thing they as a group have wanted to obtain - something that does concern this group considerably. The reaction from various counties is involved.

Mr. Evans.

May I interrupt? I hope you will be critical. I am calling your attention to the three types of program, because we constantly hear this expression by those who are not well informed, "Well, you started in 1933; you had a large surplus of wheat, cotton, etc., and here you are in 1938, and you still have large surpluses." * * * a strictly restricted program, now built up again. Raise this question. If you can somehow instill in the minds of the farmers, the desirability of having the right kind of men elected to these positions of community and county committees; if you can instill in them a desire for service of the general welfare, I think you will have * * * and, above all, I think you ought to retain, a democracy in this country.

Leader.

That is fine. Does anybody in this group have a question they want to raise as long as Mr. Evans is here?

Delegate.

Ask Mr. Evans if he means to credit all the reduction in surplus to the A.A.A., or if we should also give the grasshopper and God credit.

Mr. Evans.

Absolutely. That merely demonstrates what can be done whether it be a production-control program, the grasshopper, or God. Put yourself in a bargaining position, where the wheat farmers were last August, by having on hand more wheat than could be consumed in the United States, and that could not be consumed outside the United States. As to their opportunity to bargain, they practically didn't have any. The Government came along and injected a loan under the market. Drastically reduced production had taken out something over a million bushels of wheat and put it into the channels of trade among ourselves. You get some picture of what you can accomplish with a program of that kind. * * *

I am certain that figures will demonstrate that the farmer is 20 to 25 cents a bushel better off in a worse situation coming this fall. Never at any time tell people anything that wouldn't be the truth. The grasshopper might do it - everything might have contributed to it.

This shows the necessity for taking the national point of view when you are discussing this phase of agriculture. One illustration is very much in mind at this time. Speaking of drought and the effect it might have had on other commodities, tobacco is the best commodity that can be regulated. The supply that goes on the market and the acreage can be regulated first. If that doesn't work, you can work on poundage. * * *

Leader.

Thank you. We started out by asking what farmers hope to accomplish through their legislative programs, which resulted not only in the establishment of institutions for education but also in action programs. Most of our thinking was concerned with changes in the economic outlook that faced farmers in the post-war period. We illustrated those * * * by calling attention to failure through the loss of farm ownership, exchange of commodities, * * * and many similar factors. Since that time we have asked what particular problems the farmers would bring to their representatives to have solved: (1) Conservation; (2) surpluses; (3) loss of farm homes.

May 5 - 9:30 a. m.

Group discussion

Chairman, H. W. Hochbaum, Chief
Division of Field Coordination
Extension Service

V. What part can the Extension Service play in serving the best interests of farm people and the general welfare in relation to the foregoing problems?

Leader - J. William Firor, Georgia.

Yesterday, we were talking about the land-grant colleges and universities and what they should do. I was hoping that some of you would tell those of us who are in the universities or the land-grant colleges what we should do in this job of training leaders, as you have called for work in agriculture, but you did not go very far into that, and I shall not undertake this morning to tell you what the university or the land-grant colleges should do. But it occurred to me that you might be interested in samples of interpretation of the viewpoint of our universities. I do not know that it is quite fair to try to interpret the viewpoint of the university or those connected with it, but if you will recognize the possibility of error, I shall try to say that the universities of this country look toward education mainly as a scheme or process of developing what they call scholarship, sometimes called "cultural". I don't want to define either scholarship or culture. Possibly, by scholarship is meant the understanding of those laws and principles that affect conditions and largely control our lives. I do not think the universities are conscious of the fact that they have the obligation of developing leaders. Most of that training which you indicated yesterday as necessary for leaders probably takes place on the campus of the university in extra curricular activities rather than in the classrooms of the university.

Another thing, it seems that the universities believe rather strongly as a whole in the discovery method of education - reasoning from certain principles to certain cases, solving problems by the application of principles. However, there are some people in the universities, and probably

in the agricultural colleges you will find more of them, who believe that education should be called the one-way rule from observation and events and cases to principles.

I shall give you the outline I had in mind; you can change it just as you like. I shall go around this group and ask each person what is the most important problem of your farm people. I don't have in mind what is the most important problem you have, but what is the most important problem of your farm people. See if we can give those problems in a few words. In each case I shall write them on the board and then we shall look at our problems and a solution. This morning I am to ask you what schedule we should follow - or they should follow - in solving certain problems. I am reminded of a statement made by James Brice, that great ambassador to this country from England when Mr. Brigham was at college. He went to Panama to watch the Americans build the canal, and he made this statement, "The Americans are succeeding where the French failed, because they took 2 years to plan this gigantic undertaking."

(Here the group went into detailed discussion of outstanding farm problems.)

ADDRESS BY HENRY A. WALLACE
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

May 8, 1939

One of the great mysteries which always fascinate me has to do with evidences of unity in the midst of diversity, and so, whenever we have here in Washington a gathering representing the 48 States and the Territories, I am filled with a kind of awe. In such a gathering you can allow your mind to run in the direction of States' rights and all that can come from decentralization of Federal power to attain efficiency out in the smallest local subdivisions, while at the same time you allow your mind to run in the other direction to consider the unification of all the States' problems in terms of a broad concept of national unity. To develop a state of mind that holds both concepts simultaneously is a real art indeed, and yet every one of these meetings is devoted to that art in terms of the hard, difficult, practical problems as they exist from time to time.

Anything that is supremely worth while tends to give expression to itself sooner or later in terms of some kind of credo. If we go back in history, we shall see that was particularly true of religious movements; the early Christians developed various types of creed which they expressed as early as the third or fourth century. Again in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries there were various expressions of creed. There were the Lutheran creed, the Westminster Confession of Faith in 1648, and various other types of creed. In many churches a creed is recited as a reminder of the body of faith which animates the people that belong to that particular church.

I believe those of us who are in agricultural work, who are in Extension work, have a body of faith. To some extent it has been rather formally recognized, but we still revise it from time to time. Not in a formal way, but in a rather informal way, I should like to suggest some of the elements which are incorporated or will eventually be incorporated in our body of faith. I think all of us believe, as far as is practical and efficient, that our farm products should be produced on a family-sized farm. We believe in the family unit. In the Middle Western country we like the idea of a farm 160 or 320 acres in size. In the Great Plains a family-sized farm may be 3,000 or 4,000 acres in size if it is a grazing unit. But in irrigated regions 10, 20, or 40 acres may in some cases suffice. As far as it is practical and efficient, we intend to lay our emphasis on the family-sized farm. That doesn't mean that all farms are going to be family-sized. There may be certain types of farm enterprise that cannot be conducted that way. But in the main we believe in the family-sized farm. Furthermore, we believe that it should be owned as nearly as possible by the man who is operating it. Now that's not going to be brought to pass all at once. It may be that in certain States it will be more practical to center on types of legislation that will give greater continuity of tenure to the tenant, but that won't be brought to pass all at once. Nevertheless, we know that if the cooperative way of life in farm communities is to have a firm foundation, there must be continuity of tenure, whether it is brought to pass by absolute ownership or whether it is brought into being by improved standards of tenancy. I think it is well for all of us as we throw the influence of our educational efforts, to lay emphasis on continuity of tenure.

Now, we not only want family-sized farms on which the families can live year after year, but we want the soil on those farms to be improving steadily. I don't propose to give any lecture along that line, because you have been thinking about that for so many many years that we would be going over what some of you might call "the same old stuff." But just because we all know it so well isn't any reason why we shouldn't repeat it from time to time. We do believe earnestly, steadfastly, wholeheartedly in making the soil better on these family-sized farms where there is continuity of tenure. We want on those farms genuine efficiency of production and genuine efficiency of marketing. There is no need for me to dwell on those features, because everyone in this room has been so well trained along those lines. I am repeating them as an essential part of our credo.

Some people think that as a result of certain emphases which have been placed during the last few years that we have lost our interest in efficiency of production. Such is not the case. We are perhaps even more interested than ever. But we want it to be real efficiency of production, and not merely stuff that sounds like efficiency of production but really isn't.

I remember in the early days of experimental and extension work, we had some false ideas about what efficiency of production really was, and we spent a lot of effort inculcating ideas which later turned out to be beside the point. I have no doubt that many of the things we believe in

wholeheartedly now will later prove to be beside the point. This is to be expected. But when we learn the greater truth, the lesser truth of course will be cast aside.

I have a feeling that we are coming into a period now where there will be a rapidly growing interest in efficiency in marketing. I don't have time on this occasion to go into that, except to give it to you as my "hunch" that there is in the wind a growing interest in efficiency in marketing. Because of the fact that some of us in the Department of Agriculture felt that way about it, we have gathered together the various marketing agencies into one group for the first time in the Department. This was done last fall. I don't know precisely what form this renewed interest in improved marketing efficiency will take, but I do know that the pressure is going to be there.

Of course, you out in the counties are continually cooperating with the various cooperative organizations to see what can be done to reduce the spread - the margin between the farmer and the consumer.

Now, in addition to the family-sized farms operated by people who have continuity of tenure, who are keeping up soil fertility, who are efficient in producing their products, who are efficient in marketing their products in cooperation with their neighbors, it is necessary also to have something else, and these two additional points have received special emphasis in recent years. I think we are all in complete accord with regard to them, no matter what our background may be. These two additional points have to do with getting a fair share of the national income for the farmer, and getting that fair share so far as possible by those methods which tend to stabilize supplies and prices. It would be possible, I presume, to get a fair share in the national income for the farmer by price fixing. Under some conditions it may be desirable to get a fair share in the national income by price fixing, if a fair share cannot be obtained in any other way. But there is always the danger that price fixing methods, because they are obtained by governmental fiat, will bring about repercussions, delayed explosions which may make the final state of the farmer worse than the first state. And so, unless price fixing is used with very great intelligence, we should prefer, I believe, to place our emphasis more on the side of stabilizing supplies of farm products, and through that stability in supply to bring about increased stability of price. That is the reason, in recent years, we have placed so much emphasis, first, on acreage adjustment to the changed world picture, and then even more recently on the ever-normal granary and on loans as a mechanism enabling us to carry over from the years of favorable weather into the years of unfavorable weather the surpluses accumulated in the good years.

Now, in brief, in its hard, bony outlines, these are the component parts of our agricultural credo as I see them today. I have not included in this hard, bony outline those parts which have to do with the finer things of life. It would be necessary to put on the flesh if we are to have a really living organism, the kind of countryside we really want. And perhaps we should not delay thinking about the cultural side of farm life

until we are sure that we have the money and all the rest that is necessary to support the finer things. Maybe the finer things should go along simultaneously.

I am glad to see there are women serving as representatives from a number of the States, and I hope that in all the States the educational agencies of the Extension Service continually lay emphasis on those things which in the final analysis we all are living for; at any rate, all of us who are part of families are living for.

Mr. Brigham reminded me that in talking to an extension group some-time ago I spoke of a kind of three-way proposition. First, there must be the facts, and the credo that I have given might be called a factual credo. And second, there must be, beyond the facts, a kind of insight, an intuition, a flair, a sensing of those things for which there are no words; i.e., something that you get by living continually with a given situation. You all know what I mean, and none of you can find any words for it. That intuition is something which is between the lines of things you read. It is between the words of sentences you speak, the kind of thing that sometimes I think Irishmen have to an unusual degree. It is the kind of thing that a plant breeder or an animal breeder has as he associates continually with his plants and his animals and watches them from generation to generation. It is the kind of thing that a county agent has as he associates continually with his farmers. He senses what is in their minds even when they have not spoken. He senses it from the way they fidget when a certain sentence is spoken. Yes, insight and intuition are an essential ingredient of all successful county agents.

I think there is a tendency, perhaps, for scientists and for experiment-station workers, perhaps even for some businessmen, to overlook this ingredient. I think there is a tendency for Government workers, and especially Government workers in Washington, to overlook this ingredient, because of the fact that they do have to fill out so many forms for the Comptroller General, and in the process they squeeze the juice out of life. And I suppose county agents in recent years, having to fill out so many forms, may have felt they were getting the juice squeezed out of them too. But I hope that in due time we can have sufficient leisure so that we can use a sixth or seventh sense more and more as a part of our work.

We must not only have facts, - mind you, we can never disregard the facts - we must not only have facts and insight, but we must have enthusiasm. I know from observation of colleges and college professors that oftentimes it is the most enthusiastic professor who has the most profound effect on the students, and also he is often the one who most easily gets into trouble. Sometimes they rightfully get into trouble because they disregard the facts, and I don't know of any man who is more embarrassing to have around than an enthusiast who disregards the facts. On the other hand, I don't know of anyone who is more destructive in the long run than the fellow who holds completely to the facts and allows no enthusiasm or insight to enter into his being. He just curls up the soul right at its very point of origin.

And so, I would trust that all Government workers, whether county agents or workers in Washington, would endeavor to have the threefold approach, giving facts their due, reaching on beyond the facts toward that unfolding future which has not yet fully disclosed itself, and endeavoring to take the facts of the present into the future as we hope it will be, with the utmost enthusiasm. That approach cannot be expressed in terms of a credo. It can only be expressed in terms of living action, living joyous action, day by day - each in your own way, each according to your own insight, each according to your own definition of the agricultural program as you see it fitting into the general welfare of the whole Nation, not merely an agricultural program for your particular county. You are not a special pleader for that one county. Certainly, you want to see those folks get all that is coming to them. You want to see your State get all that is coming to it. But, in the final analysis, because of the fact that you are paid in part from Federal funds, your supreme allegiance is owed not to the welfare of agriculture alone, but to the general welfare of the whole country. It is exceedingly important for you to appreciate continually the interdependence of agriculture and industry and labor, and insofar as you engage in educational meetings, it is worth while from time to time to use some of the charts which you can get hold of very easily that have to do with demonstrating this interdependence.

I suspect that some of you raise the question from time to time as to how long these emergency programs are going to continue. You wonder how permanent they may be. I don't think anyone can answer that question with absolute certainty, but as I look at the general picture in the world at large, and in the United States, I can't help thinking that these programs in large measure are going to continue. An economist by the name of Alvin Harvey Hansen who used to be at the University of Minnesota, and was down here connected with the Treasury, has written a book which deals in part with the problems of capital flow in a maturing civilization. I am inclined to think that the Extension Service ought to be getting out some educational matter sooner or later on this question of capital flow in a maturing civilization for this reason: We can solve only half the economic farm problem on the farm. The other half of it is tied up with the fact that there are eight or nine million people unemployed in the cities, and they are going to stay unemployed as long as there is such a small capital flow.

When I say "capital flow," I am referring both to flow of Government capital and of private capital. Let me illustrate what I mean from the experience of the twenties. In the decade of the twenties, there was about 25 billion dollars worth of money invested a year in so-called heavy industry, for building plants and equipping plants by putting in new machinery. It is that kind of activity which the economists say determines whether we are in a period of depression or prosperity. Of that 25 billion dollars, about 20 billion dollars came out of corporate surplus, and out of depreciation account-money that had been laid aside by the corporations. The other 5 billion dollars came from the so-called capital markets; some may have come directly or indirectly from life-insurance funds, or may have come by way of Wall Street, or by direct investment from private individuals.

Now, it was that extra 5 billion that measured the extent to which there was an increase in private indebtedness in this country. It appears in the tables as an increase in private indebtedness. In the decade of the twenties we went along having relatively good employment because of that 5 billion dollar annual increase of new capital.

Since 1930, as an average for the entire period, there has been no new capital. What capital there has been has been governmental capital, which has averaged $2\frac{1}{2}$ billion dollars a year instead of 5 billion, and it hasn't been enough. Professor Hansen makes the point that in a maturing civilization there tends to be a smaller flow of private capital, and that there tends to be a somewhat larger flow of governmental capital. In other words, there is less emphasis placed on building new plants and more emphasis placed on putting the national resources in order and conducting a great variety of activities that government can engage in more successfully than private business. I don't know whether Professor Hansen is correct in that analysis. It is a very interesting analysis. It is the kind of analysis that is worth while to put up to people for discussion, without saying whether it is right or not. But I do think that it is just straight algebra that you have to have in the United States some kind of capital flowing in a volume of at least 4 billion dollars a year, and that insofar as you fall short of that, you are going to have unemployment. In the course of discussion you can say we should have an abundance of capital flowing from our taxation structure. And then you go along a little in your discussion and you say, well, if you cut down the rate of taxation greatly, then you would have to cut down the Government expenditures greatly or you'd have a great deficit, and then you'd have some discussion on that point. Or you'd raise the other point: What kind of business depression will we have if we cut down the Federal expenditures very rapidly, as was the case in 1937?

And, without stirring up any feeling, you consider the cost of the various alternatives. I think it is important for farm people to consider those alternatives in a purely objective way, because we won't have full farm prosperity until at least half of those eight million unemployed people are employed, and goodness knows they want to be employed. The vast majority of those people don't want to be W. P. A. workers or unemployed. And it all hinges on having capital flow. So I think it is quite appropriate for us in agriculture to discuss the city problem, perhaps have joint meetings with people in the towns on that problem. I am sure if you want to, you can get figures on this problem from Washington. You can have Dr. Warburton get the figures from the different agencies, both in the Department of Agriculture and other Departments.

I wish I had talked less and had had some discussion with you. Maybe we can have a little. We will have 10 minutes. My concluding word would be that I feel one of your primary functions is to promote to the utmost openminded discussions on the fundamental problems which have to do with the longtime, balanced welfare of the Nation as a whole. You may not be able to do much yourselves in holding meetings of that kind, and I don't

know that you should use a lot of your energy in that direction, but you can encourage such meetings on the part of others. It is amazing how much ferment a little yeast will stir up if you really believe factually, intuitively, enthusiastically, with your whole being, in what you are doing.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE NO. 1

I. What kind of life should be made possible for farm families through efficient agricultural production in America?

The committee has examined the question and developed its answer in general terms of what we think farm families would want, as was done in the general conference, as follows:

1. Farm families should have security in the sense that by diligent effort they can make reasonable financial progress.
2. Farm families as a whole want independence, want freedom from taking orders from someone above them. They want to be their own boss.
3. Healthful living conditions including good nutrition and medical attention.
4. Comfortable homes in which exist good family relationships, and modern conveniences.
5. Educational opportunities equivalent to those in communities with progressive school systems.
6. Wholesome social satisfactions.
7. Leisure sufficient for recreation and the broadening of horizons.
8. Hard-surfaced roads, and automobiles.
9. Adequate protection against the loss of life, limb, and property.

The committee recognizes that the degree of success farm families may have in attaining these goals through efficient production will be limited by several factors including individual ability and the degree of prosperity in their communities, the Nation, and the world.

The committee recommends that the Extension Service together with other educational and socializing agencies use all their efforts to lead farm families to ever higher degrees of efficient production and better living by employing the best methods of extension teaching.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE NO. 2

II. What does the general public want from farming enterprise in America?

Although there has been opportunity to study but few of the factors or forces involved in the question assigned to your committee, other than those that have been presented in your discussions, we present this summary statement of the problem as we have so far seen it.

Discussions of your whole group appear to have developed in some measure the following five points, as a very brief expression of "What does the general public expect from farming enterprises in America?"

1. Efficiency in production.
2. Conservation of soil, forest, mineral, wildlife, and other resources.
3. Good education for our children.
4. A virile type of children for replacement of urban leadership.
5. Beautification.

Other factors that might have been named and perhaps were touched upon at times include:

1. Some sort of adjustment on the part of agriculture which would tend to lessen the imaginary line between agriculture and other great groups of our country, as a means of helping to solve some of the difficulties perplexing our whole social and economic structure.
2. Traditions; the development of mechanical, chemical, social, and political things; processes and customs at large; though some of them may be attempts to smother out some of the finer and more satisfying things, customs, and processes of other days.

A reasonable portion of the general public wants agriculture and rural districts as the last stand to preserve these things for its occasional enjoyment and for posterity. Your committee is thinking of such

simple things as the family together at meals, versus eating at lunch counters, scattered over town, and at all hours; the simple form of family worship; neighborliness; philosophy and the view points that develop to those who work largely alone in the open and close to nature.

The "general public" has been interpreted to include everybody farmers as well as the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker. Concerning the first point, namely, "efficiency in production," your committee concludes that the nonfarm general public is concerned in efficiency of agricultural production only insofar as is necessary to secure for it an adequate supply and variety of food and fiber at reasonable prices, and to assure that agriculture will continue to be a buyer of goods and services offered for sale by other groups. This also applies to all agricultural groups insofar as it relates to foods and fibers that are produced only by other agricultural groups.

Many nonfarmer groups expect agriculture to employ the same mass production methods that are employed by industry. This trend of thought is, in effect, that farmers should sacrifice their individual farming, for increased efficiency by adopting a specialized large-scale farming. On the other hand, many others of these nonfarming groups expect all farmers to produce all the food for their families on the farm, regardless of the efficiency involved in a "live-at-home farm program."

Those who sell goods and services to farmers are constantly required to provide some form of credit. Efficiency in production methods is interpreted as meaning or implying that the plans and processes used are likely to return the maximum profit from the enterprise, or are likely to hold losses to the minimum. If this be true, the public, in its credit operations with agriculture, wants at least enough efficiency reasonably to support the credit extended.

Insofar as cooperative associations for selling or buying, or other group actions of agriculture have a definite bearing on its production of food and fiber, and its being a market for the goods and services of other groups, the public is interested and wants it, but beyond that point it is too busy with other problems to be concerned.

Your committee concludes that when factors that are in whole or in part beyond the control of agricultural operations to prevent either the production, processing, or distribution of food and fiber in such a way as materially to increase consumer costs, the general public wants agriculture to do more than its share of correcting the situation, and this may be found in severe depression of prices paid to farmers. If such correction is not soon made by agriculture or otherwise, the public will buy from foreign agriculture for a period.

The opinion also was expressed that the conservation of natural resources was an obligation owed the public by the farmer. This implied that soils should be so handled that they would be handed to posterity in as good or better condition than they were received by the present

generation. This may be expressed as soil conservation and proper land use in its broadest aspects. The committee feels that the conservation of human resources may be of even greater importance than the conservation of our natural resources if we are to continue to have a virile, forward-looking people on our land. The farmer does have and should realize his obligation to society in these two important respects. However, if general economic conditions, as they affect the farmer, are in such a state that it is impossible for him to do the things necessary to conserve these resources, then the general public has a reciprocal obligation to assist in making this possible, because of the benefits which will accrue to society as a whole.

Inasmuch as cities must depend on agricultural sections to supply a vital part of their population and leadership, it is desirable that rural youth be provided with educational facilities that will give them a training comparable to those provided for city boys and girls. This might be accomplished by -

1. Spreading the tax load so that cities will help to support schools in rural sections.
2. Making schools easily available and accessible to rural youth.
3. Designing school curricula in rural sections to meet the needs of rural youth rather than by conforming to academic tradition.
4. Weeding out unnecessary rural schools and using the tax savings to provide better rural schools and transportation of pupils to these schools.

The committee believes it is as important that those who remain on farms receive an education sufficient for their needs as to give adequate opportunities to those who leave the farms to go to urban centers.

This might be done not only by providing adequate schools, but by providing means of postschool education and training activities for rural youth who decide to remain on the farm. Increased assistance from the Extension Service might be one means of accomplishing this. To get an effective job done would mean an increased Extension force.

Beautification

The committee concurs in the thought that the public expects farmers to conserve and maintain natural resources, such as grasslands, timberlands, and wood lots, for the general welfare of all people. By conserving and careful management of these resources, not only will natural beauty be restored and maintained, but there will naturally follow benefits in conservation of wildlife through supplying food plants and cover growth. Conservation of the soil and plant food is accomplished in a measurable degree by

liberal use of cover crops planted in the fall. Such crops have distinct aesthetic as well as economic value to society.

Further, the public expects that farmers give attention and increasing emphasis to tree and shrub planting and reforestation, especially to the retiring of marginal and submarginal acreage into woodlands and beauty spots. Rather than view ugly gashes and gullies, the farmer and the public would enjoy new scenes of aesthetic and economic value.

Another project that would add greatly to beauty and to happier life of all would be the beautification of farmsteads. This may be done through landscaping, paint-up and clean-up campaigns, removal of unsightly billboards, planting at roadsides and intersections. If all farmers would beautify their farmsteads and roadsides then all would benefit in spite of shifting population brought on by the problem of tenancy. The public's opinion of the farmer would be raised considerably. The public gets satisfaction from seeing well-kept farmsteads. The mental effect on the farm family, especially its young folks, is very good. Young people will be better satisfied and more apt to remain on the farm if surroundings are beautified.

Development of rural sociology has direct bearing on appreciation of music, art, drama, etc. The public gets enjoyment out of witnessing presentations of rural choruses and drama groups, all of which adds to better living for farmers, as well as for the general public. The public expects that farmers take time from their labors to develop these and other projects for beautifying surroundings and making life more worth while, more colorful and satisfying.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE NO. 3

III. What benefits do farmers and the public expect from research and educational institutions they have set up in the common interest of agriculture?

The committee in the light of its answers to this question, believes it advisable to consider first some of the historical background involving the establishment of institutions thought to be referred to in this question.

The committee has assumed that the major institutions are:

1. Public schools.
2. Land-grant colleges.
3. Experiment stations and research institutions.
4. Smith-Hughes vocational training work.

Public schools, though not solely established for agricultural development, have contributed fundamental elementary training.

Land-grant colleges were originally established to teach and disseminate agricultural information and to develop agriculture. Later, particular emphasis became necessary on the development of leaders for institutions, functions, and types of work established subsequently.

Experiment stations and research became necessary as fact-finding organizations to support land-grant colleges, leader development, and to solve problems arising in the agricultural field.

The Smith-Lever Act was passed to provide for the dissemination of land-grant college and research information to farmers and their families by the means of demonstrations and other educational methods.

The Smith-Hughes Act created or made possible for boys and girls vocational training of a type more specialized and fitted to immediate use in farm communities.

The Committee in answering this question today reports the following, with respect to its belief, as expectations from these described institutions:

1. The public schools -

Are expected to meet an expanding demand for, and to provide, fundamental education, in order to give specific knowledge; develop skills; give vocational training and guidance; develop leadership and implant social and ethical ideals designed to develop better citizens in our democracy.

2. The land-grant colleges -

a. Are expected to teach the fundamentals of agriculture and home economics in accordance with present economic conditions and problems.

b. To develop leaders to meet the present and future extension of agriculture.

c. To correlate their teaching efforts with other educational and research organizations, which in turn should correlate with land-grant colleges.

3. The experiment stations and research institutions -

Are expected to act as fact-finding organizations and to meet present and future problems which change with agricultural development.

4. The Extension Service -

a. Is expected to bring the accumulated knowledge to farm families and to assist them to interpret and apply it to their situations.

5. Smith-Hughes vocational work.

Is expected to teach agriculture and home economics as farm and home vocations and to develop farm leadership in the high schools of the Nation. All of these activities in the aggregate are intended fundamentally to provide for a better farm life and a better relationship between the farmer and people not on farms.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE NO. 4

IV. What do farmers and the public hope to accomplish through legislative action programs designed to serve agriculture?

Farmers and the public, through legislative action programs, hope to accomplish a better balance between production and consumption by an improvement of the present economic system, which will give to farm families a fair share of the national income for products produced efficiently, and assurance to the public of an adequate food supply at a price reasonable to the public under normal industrial conditions.

Legislative action programs aim to increase the purchasing power of a basic industry - agriculture - in order that the farm family may be able to buy goods produced by other basic industries, such as products of the factory and mines.

A better balanced condition, aimed to make possible the proper distribution of income, will result in better standards of living for all classes; a higher degree of stability on the farms and in industrial centers; and make possible proper land use and conservation. It will also be a means of decreasing farm indebtedness, increasing ownership, and making possible the payment of taxes on rural holdings.

The problem of adjustment, however, is economic, and economic problems cannot be completely or wholly solved satisfactorily through political organizations.

Better understanding through education, with financial and educational assistance through legislative action by the Federal Government can be of assistance, but all groups of people, through education, must eventually recognize the necessity and importance of complete cooperation, understand the problems, and participate in the solution brought about through cooperation. Farm people especially, through education, must realize that "cost of production" cannot, in a sound economic system, be guaranteed for inefficient production.

People of the several political groups must understand the difference between legislation and politics on the part of the Federal Government in their efforts to assist in the solution of serious economic problems. Though we realize that the basic industry of agriculture is no longer an individual

or State problem, as it was when our country was founded, and it does need the centralizing help of the National Government, yet we feel that if agriculture and the general public are to have the benefits of permanent agricultural action programs, with help similar to that other groups of our country have been receiving, then more of the determination of basic policies and direction of the details should be placed in the hands of local administrators, democratically selected in most cases by those affected.

The elimination of red tape and the multitudinous instructions that no two persons can interpret the same, is essential, if satisfaction is to be achieved. The varying elements of soil, climate, distances, markets, nationalities, etc., that agriculture is concerned with make it imperative that more authority be given local administrators to meet individual problems and determine good farm-management actions for areas that have certain unusual problems.

In the formulation of action programs for agriculture, it should be kept in mind that the need for coordination from a National, State, and local standpoint is imperative to prevent duplication of efforts and to bring about a more efficient use of public money.

A study should be made of interstate and international trade barriers in the hope of establishing National and State policies that will serve the best interests of the majority of our people.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE NO. 5

V. What part can the Extension Service play in serving the best interests of farm people and the general welfare in relation to the foregoing problems?

The committee recommends that the agricultural extension services of the several States and Territories promote a more aggressive approach to the consideration of the problems related to the best interests of farm people and general welfare of the whole country. The need for a thorough analysis and continued study of these problems by both urban and rural people from a local, State, and National point of view is imperative. Such analysis of existing situations and understanding of problems involved should bring about the full effectiveness of available State and Federal agencies serving agriculture.

Problems presented during the conference may be summed up as follows:

1. Disposal of goods:
 - a. Relationships between urban and rural peoples.
 - b. Foreign relationships.
 - c. Stabilizing of prices.
 - d. Corporation and labor monopolies.
 - e. Interstate relationships.

2. Adjustment to conditions:
 - a. Social and technological relationships.
 - b. Making the best use of the enabling acts.
 - c. Farming enterprise:
 - (1) Elimination of submarginal farms.
 - (2) Recognition of difference in problems between large-scale and family-size farms.
 - d. Credit relationships - State, National, and International.
3. Efficiency:
 - a. Conservation of human and natural resources:
 - (1) Land use.
 - (2) Positive health.
 - (3) Best use of materials at hand.
 - b. Use of technical advancement.
 - c. Marketing.
4. Development of philosophy of farm life:
 - a. Farming as a way of life.
 - b. Increase in farm ownership.
 - c. Maintenance of family-size farms.
 - d. Acceptance of responsibility of leadership.
 - e. Cultural and recreational development.

In order to bring about the awareness of these problems the following suggest means of approach: Survey, discussion, demonstration, publicity, visual aids, leadership training, and such other methods as may be developed.

